

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER  
APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM  
FISCAL YEAR 2011**

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**Project Details**

**1. Project title:** OHSU Healthcare Inter-Professional Curriculum Development

**2. Organization name and address** (the recipient of the funds):

Oregon Health & Science University  
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road  
Portland, OR 97239

**3. Contact information**

Local Contact:

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**Project location (if different than organization's address):** Curriculum to be implemented on Marquam Hill campus as well as the future Schnitzer campus located in the S. Waterfront district of Portland.

**4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.**

Oregon Health & Science University is the state's only academic health center. OHSU's serves 210,000 patients annually, and is a conduit for learning for more than 4,100 students and trainees. OHSU is the source of more than 200 community outreach programs that bring health and education services to every county in the state.

A leader in research, OHSU earned \$307.1 million in research funding in FY 2009 with more than 4,100 research projects currently under way. OHSU serves as a catalyst for the region's bioscience industry, averaging one new breakthrough every three days.

**5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?**

OHSU is a public entity.

**6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?** Department of Education: FIPSE

**7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested** (no more than 500 words).

The Institute of Medicine and others have demonstrated that when healthcare professionals understand each others' roles and are able to work effectively together, patient outcomes improve (IOM, 2003). Despite these consistent findings, most health professional education takes place in silos, with students of various disciplines having little if any opportunity to interact meaningfully around patient care issues.

Inter-professional education occurs "when members of more than one health and/or social care profession learn interactively together, for the explicit purpose of improving inter-professional collaboration and/or the health/well-being of patients." Evidence suggests that inter-professional education is most successful when faculty from different professions co-create the learning experiences; when the inter-professional education learning experiences are embedded in the curricula and required for students; that inter-professional education experiences begin early and are sustained across the curriculum; and that students have experiential opportunities to learn collaboration, teamwork, and how it relates to the delivery of safe, quality care. It is also evident that inter-professional education leads to improved attitudes toward teams and improved team skills.

Like most health professions universities and academic health centers, OHSU has numerous challenges in designing and implementing inter-professional education including financial and space constraints, differing academic calendars, conflicting course schedules, mismatch in course content, non alignment of course content for different levels of learners, lack of institutional policies for sharing course credit among schools, and large numbers of students dispersed throughout the state who will require inter-professional education opportunities. Despite these challenges, OHSU has made inter-professional education a top priority in its 2007 strategic plan, Vision 2020, and has acquired private and state funding for constructing a new inter-professional education building, which will house classrooms, laboratories, and simulation theatres. A core group of cross-school faculty with experience in inter-professional education has begun to explore opportunities to integrate a long-term inter-professional education initiative.

Partnering with new Academic Technology staff hired specifically for this project, key education leaders in each school will develop case-based modules related to the following seven themes: Roles & Reform; Teams & Conflict; Organizational Change & Leadership; Quality & Safety; Global Health; Ethics; and Clinical Care. These modules will be developed around a simulated e-health delivery system and would consist of experiential, on-line and in-class activities. At the core of the simulated e-health delivery system will be a standalone electronic medical record that is populated with simulated patients representing a variety of conditions and cultural and economic backgrounds. Faculty led inter-professional teams of students will be presented with simulated cases and will work together to assess and develop treatment plans for their patients. The student teams will then follow the simulated patients and adjust their treatment plans as the cases progress to resolution. The cases will be developed to require knowledge and participation from all professions and will present ethical dilemmas that need to be addressed. The case-based

modules will also be structured to integrate into the regular curriculum of each School to permit more profession-specific education to occur.

**8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

Research suggests that inter-professional healthcare teamwork improves patient care through better clinical outcomes and increased patient satisfaction. One of the most effective ways to build a team based model for practice is to develop a collaborative inter-professional education model for students of dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy and allied health professions. However, there are significant barriers to creating and implementing such models which has impeded their wide-spread adoption. As a result there are few proven models to readily utilize and OHSU aims to leverage this project to develop, implement and evaluate its own inter-professional curriculum. By publically documenting this approach and the lessons learned, OHSU will be able to share valuable information with other institutions around the country and elevate its reputation as a leader in innovative healthcare curriculum development.

This initiative also aims to improve the health and well being of Oregonians by leveraging technology and unique inter-disciplinary education models to teach the state's future healthcare professionals how to work more effectively and efficiently in teams. This initiative will not only have significant impacts on future healthcare professionals by deepening the understanding of the role each profession plays in overall patient care, but most importantly the project will improve patient care access, quality and delivery.

**9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?**

No.

**9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.**

n/a

**Funding Details**

**10. Amount requested for this project: \$750,000 in FY11**

**11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):**

FY11

Simulated eHealth Delivery System	\$458,000
Salaries (3.5 FTE)	\$222,000
Desktop computer equipment	\$15,000
Desktop software	\$17,000
Office/admin/training supplies	\$23,000
Travel	\$15,000
FY11 Total	\$750,000

**12. What is the total cost of the project? \$1,150,000 over two years**

**13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011?)?**

The project has been designed in such a way that should partial funding be provided, the scope of what is proposed can be adjusted appropriately. Beyond the initial cost for acquiring a simulated eHealth delivery system, the number of modules developed could be easily decreased as could the number of professions involved.

**14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)**

While no funding has yet to be obtained for healthcare inter-professional curriculum development, a group of faculty from the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine and Nursing has developed a proposal on this subject for submission to the Josiah Macy Foundation. The Schools of Medicine and Nursing have also submitted a proposal to participate in a conference entitled "Educating Nurses and Physicians: Toward New Horizons", hosted by the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

**15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.**

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